

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-19 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 11 was objected to; claims 1-19 were provisionally rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-7 and 15-19 of co-pending Application No. 10/412,304; claims 1-6, 8-16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Lyu et al.; and claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lyu et al. in view of Broker.

Claim Objection

Regarding the objection to claim 11, claim 11 has been amended as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to claim 11 be withdrawn.

Double-Patenting Rejection

Regarding the double-patenting rejection noted in the Office Action, enclosed is a Terminal Disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Lyu et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to clarify that the first controlling part includes control commands configured to control the operation of both of the drum type washing machine and the dryer, and the second controlling part includes the control commands configured to control the operation of both of the drum type washing machine and the dryer such that the first and second control panels are interchangeably mounted on the drum type washing machine and the dryer without having to interchange the first and second controlling parts. Independent claims 10 and 11 include similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by paragraphs [0033] and [0034], and Figures 3 and 5. For example, Figure 3 illustrates the first control panel 400 including the first controlling part 410 being disposed on the washing machine 200, and Figure 5 illustrates the first control panel 400 including the first controlling part 410 being disposed on the dryer. Thus, the first and second control panels can be interchangeably mounted on the drum-type washing machine and the dryer without having to interchange the first and second controlling parts. This is particularly advantageous for people using their washing and dryer machines that do not have the necessary mechanical or electrical skills required to interchange control parts.

On the contrary, Lyu et al., which has the same assignee as the present application, is directed to interchangeable rear covers 20a and 20 (see Figures 1-4, for example). However, in Lyu et al., the control units 22a and 22 must be removed from their respective covers and interchanged. Thus, it is often difficult for users to interchange these components. This differs from the present invention in which the first and second control panels include controlling parts that are used to control the operation of either one of the washing machine or dryer.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 10 and 11 and each claim depending therefrom are allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lyu et al. in view of Broker. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 17 are dependent claims and Broker also does not teach or suggest the features recited in the corresponding amended independent claims. Accordingly, this rejection has also been overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau, Registration No. 42,325 at (703) 205-8072, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer